WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A regulator comprising a material selected from the group consisting of a protein, active fragments thereof, agonists thereof, mimics thereof, and combinations thereof, said regulator having the following structural characteristics:

a) an N-terminal RING finger motif; and

b) a long coiled-coil domain comprising a C-terminal subdomain characterized by a leucine-zipper.

2. The regulator of Claim 1 which is recruited by a receptor selected from the group consisting of TNFR2 and CD30.

3. The regulator of Claim 2 which is recruited by said selected receptor via interaction with TRAF proteins.

4. The regulator of Claim 3 which is recruited by said selected receptor via interaction with the TRAF2 homo-oligomer.

5. The regulator of Claim 1 which is a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the full sequences shown in FIGURE 2A (SEQ ID NO: 1) (SEQ ID NO: 2) and fragments thereof.

6. The regulator of Claim 1, wherein said coiled-coil domain has an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of residue numbers 56 through 275 shown in FIGURE 2A (SEQ ID NO: 3) (SEQ ID NO: 4) and fragments thereof exhibiting TRAF2 homo-oligomer specificity.

7. The regulator of Claim 1 which is derived from mammalian cells.

8. The regulator of Claim 1 labeled with a detectable label.

9. The regulator of Claim 8 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of enzymes, chemicals which fluoresce and radioactive elements.

10. A DNA sequence or degenerate variant thereof, which encodes TRIP or a fragment thereof, selected from the group consisting of the nucleotide sequences shown in FIGURE 8 (SEQ ID NO: 7) (SEQ ID NO: 8), DNA sequences that hybridize to any of the foregoing DNA sequences under standard hybridization conditions and DNA sequences that code on expression for an amino acid sequence encoded by any of the foregoing DNA sequences.

11. The DNA sequence of Claim 10, wherein said DNA sequence is operatively linked to an expression control sequence.

12. A probe capable of screening for TRIP in alternate species prepared from the DNA sequence of Claim 10.

13. A recombinant DNA molecule comprising a DNA sequence or degenerate variant thereof, which encodes TRIP or a fragment thereof, selected from the group consisting of the nucleotide sequences shown in FIGURE 8 (SEQ ID NO: 7) (SEQ ID NO: 8), DNA sequences that hybridize to any of the foregoing DNA sequences under standard hybridization conditions and DNA

sequences that code on expression for an amino acid sequence encoded by any of the foregoing DNA sequences.

14. A unicellular host transformed with a recombinant DNA molecule comprising a DNA sequence or degenerate variant thereof, which encodes TRIP or a fragment thereof, selected from the group consisting of the nucleotide sequences shown in FIGURE 8 (SEQ ID NO: 7) (SEQ ID NO: 8), DNA sequences that hybridize to any of the foregoing DNA sequences under standard hybridization conditions and DNA sequences that code on expression for an amino acid sequence encoded by any of the foregoing DNA sequences.

15. A recombinant DNA molecule which upon transcription, produces an antisense nucleic acid against TRIP mRNA,

said TRIP mRNA specific for translation of amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of amino acid sequences shown in FIGURE 2A (SEQ ID NO: 1) (SEQ ID NO: 2) (SEQ ID NO: 3) (SEQ ID NO: 4), FIGURE 2B (SEQ ID NO: 5) (SEQ ID NO: 6) and fragments thereof,

said antisense nucleic acid comprising an nucleic acid sequence capable of hybridizing to said TRIP mRNA.

16. The antisense nucleic acid of Claim 15, comprising said nucleic acid sequence hybridizing to said TRIP mRNA for interfering with said translation of said amino acid sequences.

17. The antisense nucleic acid of Claim 15 which is RNA.

18. The antisense nucleic acid of Claim 15 which is DNA.

19. The antisense nucleic acid of Claim 15 which binds to the initiation codon of said mRNA.

20. A method for detecting the presence or activity of TRIP, said TRIP having a specificity for the TRAF2 homo-oligomer, but not the TRAF2-TRAF1 hetero-oligomer, wherein said TRIP is measured by:

A. contacting a biological sample from a mammal in which the presence or activity of said TRIP is suspected with said TRAF2 homo-oligomer under conditions that allow binding of said TRIP to said TRAF2 homo-oligomer to occur; and

B. detecting whether binding has occurred between said TRIP from said sample and TRAF2 homo-oligomer;

wherein the detection of binding indicates that presence or activity of said TRIP in said sample.

21. A method of preventing cellular apoptosis in mammals, comprising administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an agent capable of inhibiting the production of TRIP or a specific binding partner thereto, said agent having the following characteristics:

a) is mediated by the receptor-TRAF2-TRAF1 complex;

b) has a specificity for the TRAF2-TRAF1 hetero-oligomer; and

c) is a negative regulator of NF-kB activation.

22. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of cellular debilitation, derangement and/or dysfunction in mammals, comprising:

A. a therapeutically effective amount of a material capable of inhibiting the production of TRIP, said material being a negative regulator of NF-kB activation; and

B. a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. An antibody produced by injecting a substantially immunocompetent host with an antibody-producing effective amount of TRIP, active fragments thereof, agonists thereof, mimics thereof, and combinations thereof, and harvesting said antibody, said TRIP having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the sequences delineated in FIGURE 2A (SEQ ID NO: 1) (SEQ ID NO: 2) (SEQ ID NO: 3) (SEQ ID NO: 4).

24. The antibody of Claim 23 labeled with a detectable label.

25. The antibody of Claim 24 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of enzymes, chemicals which fluoresce and radioactive elements.

26. The antibody of Claim 23 which is monoclonal.

27. The antibody of Claim 23 which is polyclonal.

28. A test kit for detecting the presence of TRIP in a eukaryotic cellular sample, comprising:

A. a predetermined amount of a detectably labelled specific binding partner to an amino sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acid sequences shown in FIGURE 2A (SEQ ID NO: 1) (SEQ ID NO: 2) (SEQ ID NO: 3) (SEQ ID NO: 4), FIGURE 2B (SEQ ID NO: 5) (SEQ ID NO: 6) and fragments thereof;

B. other reagents; and

C. directions for use of said kit.

29. The test kit of Claim 28 wherein said specific binding partner is an immunochemically reactive component selected from the group consisting of polyclonal antibodies, monoclonal antibodies and mixtures thereof.

30. The test kit of Claim 28 wherein said specific binding partner is labelled with a label selected from the group consisting of enzymes, chemicals which fluoresce and radioactive elements.

31. A test kit for demonstrating the presence of TRIP in a eukaryotic cellular sample, comprising:

A. a predetermined amount of anti-TRIP antibody selected from Ab_1, Ab_2, a specific binding partner for TRIP and combinations thereof;

B. other reagents; and

C. directions for use of said kit;

wherein either said anti-TRIP antibody is detectably labelled.